

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KAWAGOE, et al.

Filed: December 14, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING A
SEMICONDUCTOR WAFER, A SEMICONDUCTOR
WAFER, PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING A
SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE,
AND SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT
DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

December 14, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination
thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title and prior to the heading "BACKGROUND OF THE
INVENTION", please insert the following:

--This application is a Divisional application of application Serial No.
09/513,349, filed February 25, 2000, which is a Continuation application of
application Serial No. 08/934,774, filed September 22, 1997, now U.S. Patent

No. 6,043,114, which is a Divisional application of application Serial No.

08/508,483, filed July 28, 1995.--

10044405-121401

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the first page of the specification to refer to all prior applications, of the present application, that are being relied upon under 35 USC 120, consistent with the requirements of 35 USC 120. Clearly, this amendment of the specification does not add new matter to the application.

The claims of the above-identified application are noted. Note, in connection therewith, the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,043,114, issued March 28, 2000, from application Serial No. 08/934,774, filed September 22, 1997, which is being relied upon in the above-identified application under 35 USC 120.

For the sole purpose of facilitating prosecution of the above-identified application, to achieve earliest possible issuance of a U.S. patent therefrom, Applicants are submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in the above-identified application, with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,043,114. Entry of this Terminal Disclaimer, in due course, is respectfully requested.

Entry of the present amendment to the specification, and, subsequent thereto and subsequent to entry of the Terminal Disclaimer, examination of the above-identified application on the merits in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No.

01-2135 (Case No. 501.33873VC4) and please credit any excess fees to such
Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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WIS/slk